

REMARKS

The Office action of December 16, 2008 has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-8 are present in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 8 includes limitation of previous claims 9 and 10. The claims have been amended to overcome the Section 112 objections.

In relation to the amendments, it should be appreciated that a key benefit of applicants' pad is that the glycerin keeps the polyurethane soft while allowing exudate from wounds to be absorbed by the pad/sponge, the gentian violet is sufficient to kill pathogens, and the gentian violet does not transfer to the patient's skin. As stated under "Actions:" in the publication "drug facts and comparisons" cited by the Examiner, "Because of its cosmetic effects and staining of clothing, gentian violet has generally been replaced in practice by other topical agents." Further, under the heading "Patient Information:" the publication states, "Gentian violet will stain skin and clothing. Do not apply to an ulcerative lesion; may result in 'tattooing' of the skin." Applicants' claimed invention avoids the undesirable features described by the publication. See the specification at page 10, lines 22-30. Also, in the first full paragraph on page 10, it is discussed that the amount of gentian violet must be used in correct volumes so as not to impede adsorption of exudate. In other words, once the pad is dried, by eliminating the water, there is adequate volume in the sponge to absorb exudate.

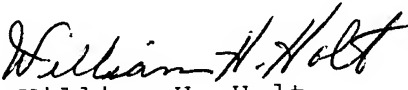
The patent to Richter et al. Does not teach the particular antimicrobial dye and does not, therefore, encounter the known problem of staining of skin and clothing by gentian violet. This problem has been solved by applicants' invention. Thus the combined

citation do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application is requested and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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